

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action of November 23, 2005, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-12, 14-19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable of Kaminski et al. in view of Calfee. AT the same time, the Examiner has confirmed the allowance of claims 13 and 20-23.

Applicant has now amended independent claim 1 to essentially incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 24 and to also utilize "consisting of" language in the description of the four layers of material that make up the composite rings. Thus, independent claim 1 now calls for the rings to consist of a first radially innermost metal layer, a second adjacent glass fiber laminate layer, a third layer of graphite fiber laminates radially outward of the second layer, and a fourth radially outermost glass fiber laminate fiber layer.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art as cited and relied upon by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest the arrangement as now recited in independent claim 1. In this regard, the Examiner acknowledges that Kaminski et al fail to show the rings comprising the claimed multi-laminate as required by the claims but relies upon the secondary reference to Calfee as disclosing a laminar composite incorporating metals, glass fiber laminates and graphite fiber laminates.

In Calfee, however, the laminar composite necessarily incorporates corrugated metal foils 14. As a result, the laminar composite structure in Calfee is made up of no fewer than ten discrete layers including the three interior layers of corrugated metal.

Accordingly, no combination of Kaminski and Calfee disclose or even remotely suggest the subject matter of independent claim 1 as amended herewith, which consists of only four layers.

Further, in this regard, Applicant maintains the position that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to combine Kaminski and Calfee for the reasons stated in Applicants response of October 28, 2005, incorporated herein by reference.

Dependent claims 2 and 3 are patentable by reasons of their dependence upon claim 1.

Dependent claims 5-12 have been cancelled. Dependent claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 13. Further in this regard, claim 13 has been amended to require that the radially outer layer comprise a glass fiber laminate layer. Nevertheless, the claim remains allowable since the prior art neither discloses nor suggests the structural arrangement of axially shorter rings that vary in diameter in opposite direction towards a center ring of smallest diameter in combination with the specific materials recited in the claim.

Dependent claims 15-19 have been cancelled.

Independent claims 1, 13, 20 and 23 have also been amended to clarify that the enclosure surrounds rotor and rotor windings but not the stator. As explained in the specification, the enclosure is located in the radial gap between the rotor and rotor windings and the radially spaced stator. The deletion of the stator from the independent claims simply clarifies this point, and has no bearing on the prior allowance of claims 13, 20 and 23.

Applicants also submit herewith new claims 25-32. Dependent claim 25 depends from claim 21 and further specifies the inclusion of a graphite fiber laminate layer interposed between intermediate glass fiber laminate layer and the radially outer glass fiber laminate layer.

New claim 26 depends from claim 1 and calls for the plurality of composite rings to include at least one axially shorter ring between a pair of axially longer rings.

New claim 27 depends from claim 26 and further specifies a plurality of axially shorter rings that vary in diameter in opposite directions towards a center ring of smallest diameter.

New claim 28 is independent form and calls for a plurality of rings located adjacent one another along the length dimension of the rotors so as to contain the rotor windings on the rotor, with the rings each comprising a multilayer composite and wherein the rings vary in axial length. None of the prior art as cited and applied by the Examiner discloses or suggests rings that vary in axial length and, therefore, new claim 28 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

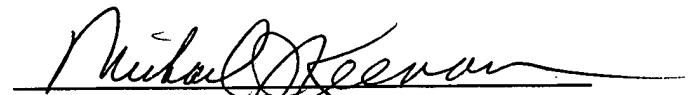
New claims 29-32 depend from independent claim 28 and further define the arrangement of rings, noting that claim 32 further requires that the multilayer composites comprise discrete layers selected from the group consisting essentially of metals, glass fiber laminates and graphite fiber laminates.

Since all of the remaining claims are now in condition for immediate allowance, early passage to issue is requested. In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Michael J. Keenan

Reg. No. 32,106

MJK:glf
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100